

**Report
of the
Republican Presidential Preference
Primary Election, March 26, 1996**



Compiled and prepared by

DEAN HELLER

Secretary of State

INTRODUCTION

Nevada's first-ever, statewide, all mail-in election, the Republican Presidential Preference Primary, was held on March 26. The legislation authorizing the presidential primary election was passed overwhelmingly by the 1995 Session.

This legislation and subsequent regulations and interpretations established the procedures to be employed in conducting the election.

Briefly, the two major parties were permitted to decide whether or not to hold a presidential primary. The Democratic Party voted no; the Republican Party voted yes. Also considered was whether or not to permit non-partisan voter participation in the election. The Republican Party voted no on this issue.

Candidacy filing opened on October 24, 1995, and closed at 5 p.m. on January 9, 1996. Ultimately, 11 individuals filed declarations of candidacy.

PARTICIPATION

The presidential primary was conceived as a means to increase voter participation, and the 289,819 Republican voters of Nevada responded positively as the total ballots cast was 143,041. This figure represents a 49.4% turnout. When compared with other states where a primary was held during this election cycle, Nevada ranks at the high end of the participation scale. (Oregon's turnout was 66.3%; while that of Rhode Island was 3.84%.)

Of course, traditional absent ballots (a ballot which a voter requests to be sent to him at an address different from that on his voter registration) were cast during this all mail-in election. There were less than 250 such ballots voted statewide.

The early voting turnout clearly indicates that this service is not needed in a

mail-in election. Only 190 individuals visited a polling place to vote early. The convenience of a mail-in ballot obviously displaces the formerly popular early voting.

THE PROCESS

The County Clerks and Registrars of Voters began mailing ballots to the registered Republicans on February 29. The mailing was complete by March 11.

Preparation of the voted ballots for tabulation on March 26 was permitted to begin three days prior, Thursday, March 21.

Before that date, however, in Washoe County it was discovered that a coating on the return envelope's inside could, when the voter signed the envelope, cause the enclosed ballot to be identified by voter name.

Against the direction of the Secretary of State and legal counsel, the Registrar of Voters had opened ballots and erased the "copy" signature. The Washoe County Commission moved quickly through an interlocal agreement to have the Secretary of State's Office take over the running of the primary election and the Registrar of Voter's Office.

Procedures based on law and regulations were put in place. An investigation by the Nevada Division of Investigations found no evidence of vote tampering. The operation of the primary election in Washoe County moved smoothly apace, culminating in a clean, early return on March 26.

With only one minor equipment malfunction in a small county, election night tabulation and results reporting were complete well before midnight.

PUBLIC OBSERVATIONS

Although negative comments are the normal when a new process is instituted, generally, public response to the all mail-in election was positive. Of particular

note, a majority of the state's election officials favor this form of election.

Negative responses became prevalent following disclosure of the Washoe County Registrar of Voter's actions. Maintaining the individual voter's privacy was the most heard concern, while voter fraud was the second greatest concern.

On the positive side, voters reported that both the convenience of a mail-in ballot and the cost savings were very important.

COSTS

At the direction of the 1995 Legislature, the Secretary of State prepared a fiscal note for the Presidential Primary. Considering that both major parties might choose to hold a primary and taking into consideration voter registration growth factors, a three-tier cost was calculated. Option 1 was \$749,563; Option 2, \$783,633, and Option 3, \$817,704.

Billings for primary election costs from each of the counties totalled \$627,783.04; however, several costs have been disallowed. Those deducted figures are as follow:

Carson City	\$ 6,527.24	Regular staff salaries
Clark County	\$60,229.40	Regular staff salaries
	<u>\$ 2,101.40</u>	Printing of unrequired notice
	\$60,330.80	

Eureka County	\$ 1,588.48	Regular staff salaries
Pershing County	\$ 1,735.00	Unitemized additional costs
Storey County	\$ 118.51	Regular staff salaries

TOTAL DISALLOWED COSTS: \$72,300.03

With adjustment (subtraction of the disallowed costs), the total allowable costs to be reimbursed are \$555,483.01.

If the Democratic Party had held a presidential primary at the same time and had the ballots been similar in quantity, then given the costs of the Republican Presidential Preference Primary, the total costs of the two primaries would have been slightly over the Secretary of State's Option 3 fiscal note of \$817,704.

Costs for the election, for which the Legislature appropriated only \$200,000, are a charge against the state, and, pursuant to NRS 298.500, the Secretary of State recommends to the State Board of Examiners what payments are to be made from the statutory contingency account. An insufficiency in this account will require action by the Interim Finance Committee.

**Total Registration and Voter Turnout for the
1996 Republican Presidential Preference Primary Election
--State of Nevada--**

<i>County Name</i>	<i>Total Republican Registration</i>	<i>Ballots Cast</i>	<i>Total Turnout</i>
Carson City	12,040	7,136	59.3%
Churchill County	5,624	3,282	58.4%
Clark County	162,201	75,471	46.5%
Douglas County	10,798	6,275	58.1%
Elko County	7,634	3,988	52.2%
Esmeralda County	274	156	56.9%
Eureka County	424	304	71.7%
Humboldt County	2,607	1,661	63.7%
Lander County	1,326	830	62.6%
Lincoln County	802	442	55.1%
Lyon County	6,133	3,390	55.3%
Mineral County	940	457	48.6%
Nye County	5,220	2,514	48.2%
Pershing County	815	518	63.6%
Storey County	906	477	52.6%
Washoe County	70,372	35,322	50.2%
White Pine County	1,703	818	48.0%
TOTALS:	289,819	143,041	49.4%

Please note these figures are compiled from information obtained from official election returns provided by Nevada's County Clerks and Registrars of Voters.

Courtesy of
DEAN HELLER
Secretary of State

Costs for the Republican Presidential Preference Primary Election

(Statewide mail-in election held on March 26, 1996)

<i>County Name</i>	<i>Total Republican Registration</i>	<i>Figures submitted by counties</i>	<i>Costs as examined by Secretary of State</i>	
			<i>Costs Disallowed</i>	<i>Total Allowable</i>
Carson City	12,040	\$ 28,687.44	\$ 6,527.24	\$ 22,160.20
Churchill County	5,624	\$ 12,115.86	\$ 0.00	\$ 12,115.86
Clark County	162,201	\$ 377,409.91	\$ 62,330.80	\$ 315,079.11
Douglas County	10,798	\$ 21,039.87	\$ 0.00	\$ 21,039.87
Elko County	7,634	\$ 6,196.58	\$ 0.00	\$ 6,196.58
Esmeralda County	274	\$ 1,373.93	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,373.93
Eureka County	424	\$ 5,100.24	\$ 1,588.48	\$ 3,511.76
Humboldt County	2,607	\$ 5,321.35	\$ 0.00	\$ 5,321.35
Lander County	1,326	\$ 4,074.71	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,074.71
Lincoln County	802	\$ 3,426.85	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,426.85
Lyon County	6,133	\$ 7,680.89	\$ 0.00	\$ 7,680.89
Mineral County	940	\$ 4,465.52	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,465.52
Nye County	5,220	\$ 14,757.07	\$ 0.00	\$ 14,757.07
Pershing County	815	\$ 5,506.32	\$ 1,735.00	\$ 3,771.32
Storey County	906	\$ 3,848.40	\$ 118.51	\$ 3,729.89
Washoe County	70,372	\$ 121,394.14	\$ 0.00	\$ 121,394.14
White Pine County	1,703	\$ 5,383.96	\$ 0.00	\$ 5,383.96
TOTALS	289,819	\$ 627,783.04	\$ 72,300.03	\$ 555,483.01

Costs for the Republican Presidential Preference Primary Election

(Statewide mail-in election held on March 26, 1996)

County Name	Total Republican Registration	Cost based on total voter registration		Total Ballots Cast	Cost based on number of ballots cast	
		Cost Per Ballot	Total Cost		Cost Per Ballot	Total Cost
Carson City	12,040	\$ 2.38	\$ 28,687.44	7,136	\$ 4.02	\$ 28,687.44
Churchill County	5,624	\$ 2.15	\$ 12,115.86	3,282	\$ 3.69	\$ 12,115.86
Clark County	162,201	\$ 2.32	\$ 377,409.91	75,471	\$ 5.00	\$ 377,409.91
Douglas County	10,798	\$ 1.95	\$ 21,039.87	6,275	\$ 3.35	\$ 21,039.87
Elko County	7,634	\$ 0.81	\$ 6,196.58	3,988	\$ 1.55	\$ 6,196.58
Esmeralda County	274	\$ 5.01	\$ 1,373.93	156	\$ 8.80	\$ 1,373.93
Eureka County	424	\$ 12.03	\$ 5,100.24	304	\$ 16.78	\$ 5,100.24
Humboldt County	2,607	\$ 2.04	\$ 5,321.35	1,661	\$ 3.20	\$ 5,321.35
Lander County	1,326	\$ 3.07	\$ 4,074.71	830	\$ 4.90	\$ 4,074.71
Lincoln County	802	\$ 4.27	\$ 3,426.85	442	\$ 7.75	\$ 3,426.85
Lyon County	6,133	\$ 1.25	\$ 7,680.89	3,390	\$ 2.27	\$ 7,680.89
Mineral County	940	\$ 4.75	\$ 4,465.52	457	\$ 9.77	\$ 4,465.52
Nye County	5,220	\$ 2.82	\$ 14,757.07	2,514	\$ 5.87	\$ 14,757.07
Pershing County	815	\$ 6.76	\$ 5,506.32	518	\$ 10.63	\$ 5,506.32
Storey County	906	\$ 4.25	\$ 3,848.40	477	\$ 8.07	\$ 3,848.40
Washoe County	70,372	\$ 1.73	\$ 121,394.14	35,322	\$ 3.44	\$ 121,394.14
White Pine County	1,703	\$ 3.16	\$ 5,383.96	818	\$ 6.58	\$ 5,383.96
AVERAGE		\$ 3.57			\$ 6.22	
TOTALS	289,819		\$ 627,783.04	143,041		\$ 627,783.04

PLEASE NOTE: This table has been prepared from information supplied by Nevada's County Clerks and Voter Registrars.

Overhead Costs for the Republican Presidential Preference Primary Election

(Statewide mail-in election held on March 26, 1996)

<i>County Name</i>	<i>Postal Service and Printing Costs</i>	<i>Total Allowable Cost</i>	<i>Overhead Costs</i>
Carson City	\$ 16,062.07	\$ 22,160.20	\$ 6,098.13
Churchill County	\$ 8,505.96	\$ 12,115.86	\$ 3,609.90
Clark County	\$ 156,793.40	\$ 315,079.11	\$ 158,285.71
Douglas County	\$ 6,441.81	\$ 21,039.87	\$ 14,598.06
Elko County	\$ 5,337.33	\$ 6,196.58	\$ 859.25
Esmeralda County	\$ 647.41	\$ 1,373.93	\$ 726.52
Eureka County	\$ 2,960.83	\$ 3,511.76	\$ 550.93
Humboldt County	\$ 3,674.37	\$ 5,321.35	\$ 1,646.98
Lander County	\$ 2,831.21	\$ 4,074.71	\$ 1,243.50
Lincoln County	\$ 2,395.19	\$ 3,426.85	\$ 1,031.66
Lyon County	\$ 6,367.92	\$ 7,680.89	\$ 1,312.97
Mineral County	\$ 2,696.71	\$ 4,465.52	\$ 1,768.81
Nye County	\$ 8,744.34	\$ 14,757.07	\$ 6,012.73
Pershing County	\$ 2,051.94	\$ 3,771.32	\$ 1,719.38
Storey County	\$ 2,401.61	\$ 3,729.89	\$ 1,328.28
Washoe County	\$ 67,094.11	\$ 121,394.14	\$ 54,300.03
White Pine County	\$ 3,985.28	\$ 5,383.96	\$ 1,398.68
Percent of Total Allowable Cost	54.8%	100.0%	46.2%
TOTAL	\$ 298,991.49	\$ 555,483.01	\$ 256,491.52

PLEASE NOTE: This report is compiled from information supplied by Nevada's County Clerks and Voter Registrars.

A GUIDE TO THE 1996 PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTION IN NEVADA



Provided as a Courtesy by:

DEAN HELLER

Secretary of State

WHEN WILL THE 1996 PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTION BE HELD?

- ▶ If either major political party in Nevada chooses to participate, the presidential preference primary will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 1996. No other election may be held at the same time as the presidential preference primary election.

HOW CAN I VOTE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTION?

- ▶ If you are affiliated with a major political party and that party has chosen to participate in the presidential preference primary election, you will be mailed a ballot for the election no later than March 19, 1996.
- ▶ After receiving either a paper ballot or a punch card ballot (depending on the county), cast your vote according to instructions provided with the ballot and return it to your county clerk/registrar by 7 p.m. on election day.
- ▶ If you do not receive a ballot in the mail, contact your county clerk/registrar and request a certificate to vote in the office of the county clerk/registrar on election day.
- ▶ If you will not be at your resident address (or place where you receive your mail) during the mailing of the presidential preference primary ballot, you may request an absent ballot from your county clerk/registrar no later than 5 p.m. on March 19, 1996. Instructions on how to cast your vote and where to return your marked ballot will be included with the absent ballot that is mailed to you.
- ▶ You must be a registered voter to vote in any election in Nevada. The last day to register in order to vote in the presidential preference primary election is Saturday, February 24, 1996 at 9:00 p.m.
- ▶ Early voting is also allowed in the presidential preference primary election, but will only be conducted at the office of the county clerk or registrar of voters. Check with your county clerk/registrar for the times.

WHAT MUST I DO TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED

STATES IN THE STATE OF NEVADA AS A MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY CANDIDATE?

- ▶ File with the secretary of state, no later than 5 p.m. on January 9, 1996:
 - A) a declaration of candidacy on a form prescribed by the secretary of state;
 - B) a candidate filing fee of \$1000.00; and
 - C) a separate list of the names of the delegates and alternate delegates from each of Nevada's congressional districts who will pledge to you (the candidate) if you receive the greatest number of votes. All delegates on this list must be registered voters in their respective districts and must be a members of the same party as the candidate.
- ▶ Should you receive the greatest number of votes in each congressional district in the state, your selected delegates and alternates will be certified as those who represent your party at the national party convention.
- ▶ Your delegates must be pledged to you for the first convention ballot unless you release their obligation to you.
- ▶ If you receive the greatest number of votes, you may release the obligation of your delegates and alternate delegates at any time after the election by notifying the chairman of the state delegation in writing.
- ▶ If you receive the greatest number of votes, you may at any time prior to the national party convention, change the names on your list of delegates and alternate delegates. Remember, your delegates must still pledge themselves to you at least through the first convention ballot.
- ▶ Please note that within 2 weeks of your delegates being certified by the secretary of state, they must file with the secretary of state a pledge stating that they (the delegates) will act in accordance with laws pertaining to the presidential preference primary.

WHAT ROLE DOES THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY PLAY IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTION?

- ▶ Major political parties have the option to participate in the 1996 presidential preference primary. The state central committee of the major party must notify the secretary of state no later than November 1, 1995, whether or not the party will participate.
- ▶ Major political parties, if they choose to participate in a presidential preference primary, shall notify the secretary of state no later than January 1, 1996 whether they will allow nonpartisan voters to vote.
- ▶ If you wish to run as a major political party candidate, your party or organization must be qualified in the State of Nevada as a major political party. Currently the Democrat and Republican parties are the only major political parties in Nevada. For information on how to qualify as a major political party, please contact the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's office.
- ▶ Major political parties must hold county and state conventions and form county and state central committees pursuant to NRS 293.130 through 293.160 and NRS 293.163.
- ▶ If only one candidate declares, that candidate will automatically be considered the winner and will advance to the national convention. If no candidate declares, the political party will hold party caucuses to select Nevada's nominees for President of the United States.

WHAT ROLE DOES THE SECRETARY OF STATE PLAY IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTION?

- ▶ The secretary of state shall announce no later than January 1, 1996 the number of delegates and alternate delegates from each major political party for the presidential preference primary who will represent each Nevada congressional district.
- ▶ The secretary of state shall ensure that the number of delegates chosen to represent the congressional districts in Nevada complies with the provisions of Section 37, Chapter 685, Statutes of Nevada 1995 (AB 695).
- ▶ The secretary of state shall forward to each county election officer a certified list of the names of those who are to appear on the presidential preference primary ballot for each major political party no later than February 13, 1996.

WHAT ROLE DO THE COUNTY ELECTION OFFICERS PLAY IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTION?

- ▶ The county clerks/registrars shall publish a notice of the presidential preference primary election upon receipt of the certified list of candidates from the secretary of state.
- ▶ The county clerks/registrars shall print the ballot containing the names of the candidates for nomination.
- ▶ If a major political party allows nonpartisan voters to participate in the presidential preference primary election, the county clerks/registrars shall mail to any nonpartisan voter who so requests in writing, a ballot for the election no later than 5 p.m. on March 19, 1996.
- ▶ The county clerks/registrars shall mail to those registered voters affiliated with a major political party a ballot if that party is participating in the election, no later than 5 p.m. on March 19, 1996. The necessary instructions and supplies will accompany the ballot.
- ▶ If the county clerk/registrar receives notification from the voter that he did not receive a ballot, the county clerk/registrar shall issue the voter a certificate and allow that voter to vote on election day in the office of the county clerk/registrar.
- ▶ The county clerks/registrars shall receive, process and count the ballots pursuant to statutory procedures.
- ▶ After tabulating the votes for the election, the county clerks/registrars shall post copies of the voting results.
- ▶ The county clerks/registrars shall, after a canvass of the returns by the county commission, transmit a copy of the certified abstract and a mechanized abstract of the vote to the secretary of state within five days after the election.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions regarding the 1996 presidential preference primary election or any other question regarding elections in Nevada, please feel free to contact us.

**Office of the Secretary of State
Elections Division
Capitol Complex
Carson City, NV 89710**

**PHONE: (702) 687-3176
FAX: (702) 687-6913**

(presprm.gde 9/13/95)

1996 *Republican Presidential Preference Primary Election Returns*

This is an *OFFICIAL* abstract of the votes cast
at the March 26, 1996, Republican Presidential Preference
Primary Election in the State of Nevada.



Courtesy of
DEAN HELLER
Secretary of State

Congressional District One

(Urban Clark County)
3 Delegates

(OFFICIAL RETURNS)

	Lamar Alexander	Patrick "Pat" Buchanan	Charles E. Collins	Bob Dole	Steve Forbes	Phil Gramm	Alan Lee Keyes	Mary "France" Le Tulle	Richard G. Lugar	Hilary Michael Milko	Morry Taylor	NONE OF THESE CANDIDATES	TOTAL VOTES BY COUNTY
Clark	1,297	7,498	138	22,821	9,639	266	524	92	172	48	27	4,418	46,940
TOTAL	1,297	7,498	138	22,821	9,639	266	524	92	172	48	27	4,418	46,940

Congressional District Two

(Rural Clark County and all other Counties)

3 Delegates

(OFFICIAL RETURNS)

	Lamar Alexander	Patrick "Pat" Buchanan	Charles E. Collins	Bob Dole	Steve Forbes	Phil Gramm	Alan Lee Keyes	Mary "France" Le Tulle	Richard G. Lugar	Hilary Michael Milko	Morry Taylor	NONE OF THESE CANDIDATES	TOTAL VOTES BY COUNTY
Carson City	181	1,034	17	3,718	1,337	34	103	16	19	2	3	626	7,090
Churchill	73	433	3	1,861	457	18	55	4	16	0	1	255	3,176
Clark	674	4,158	69	13,388	5,606	156	322	55	87	20	20	2,197	26,752
Douglas	93	837	22	3,494	1,093	37	113	7	17	1	5	493	6,212
Elko	56	616	7	1,969	807	27	89	13	7	3	4	228	3,826
Esmeralda	1	38	2	64	35	3	4	0	1	1	0	7	156
Eureka	2	68	0	144	53	0	1	0	0	0	0	24	292
Humboldt	48	257	5	902	270	21	16	4	2	1	0	125	1,651
Lander	18	160	0	414	133	11	16	2	1	1	2	68	826
Lincoln	10	80	1	249	62	2	4	0	4	0	0	30	442
Lyon	111	617	7	1,631	571	17	76	10	14	5	4	261	3,324
Mineral	10	84	1	198	102	2	12	2	2	0	0	44	457
Nye	18	517	2	1,390	276	18	38	5	6	4	1	234	2,509
Pershing	16	86	0	264	103	1	7	0	0	0	0	41	518
Storey	8	94	1	243	78	0	6	1	1	0	0	45	477
Washoe	650	4,605	29	19,767	6,304	125	606	78	114	22	26	2,879	35,205
White Pine	23	139	1	415	137	7	7	1	1	1	1	51	784
TOTAL	1,992	13,823	167	50,111	17,424	479	1,475	198	292	61	67	7,608	93,697

At-Large

(Statewide Totals)

8 Delegates

(OFFICIAL RETURNS)

	Lamar Alexander	Patrick "Pat" Buchanan	Charles E. Collins	Bob Dole	Steve Forbes	Phil Gramm	Alan Lee Keyes	Mary "France" LeTulle	Richard G. Lugar	Hilary Michael Milko	Morry Taylor	NONE OF THESE CANDIDATES	TOTAL VOTES BY COUNTY
Carson City	181	1,034	17	3,718	1,337	34	103	16	19	2	3	626	7,090
Churchill	73	433	3	1,861	457	18	55	4	16	0	1	255	3,176
Clark	1,971	11,656	207	36,209	15,245	422	846	147	259	68	47	6,615	73,692
Douglas	93	837	22	3,494	1,093	37	113	7	17	1	5	493	6,212
Elko	56	616	7	1,969	807	27	89	13	7	3	4	228	3,826
Esmeralda	1	38	2	64	35	3	4	0	1	1	0	7	156
Eureka	2	68	0	144	53	0	1	0	0	0	0	24	292
Humboldt	48	257	5	902	270	21	16	4	2	1	0	125	1,651
Lander	18	160	0	414	133	11	16	2	1	1	2	68	826
Lincoln	10	80	1	249	62	2	4	0	4	0	0	30	442
Lyon	111	617	7	1,631	571	17	76	10	14	5	4	261	3,324
Mineral	10	84	1	198	102	2	12	2	2	0	0	44	457
Nye	18	517	2	1,390	276	18	38	5	6	4	1	234	2,509
Pershing	16	86	0	264	103	1	7	0	0	0	0	41	518
Storey	8	94	1	243	78	0	6	1	1	0	0	45	477
Washoe	650	4,605	29	19,767	6,304	125	606	78	114	22	26	2,879	35,205
White Pine	23	139	1	415	137	7	7	1	1	1	1	51	784
TOTAL	3,289	21,321	305	72,932	27,063	745	1,999	290	464	109	94	12,026	140,637